

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1-7, including the addition of reference numbers 51 (twist grip throttle), 53 (brake lever), 55 (clutch lever), 49 (differential), and 23 (pivot axis).

Attachments: Seven (7) Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Applicant submits this Amendment in response to the Office Action mailed June 23, 2009.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the drawings, amended the specification, amended claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 13, and 16, and cancelled claims 2, 4, 12, and 15. The originally filed specification, drawings, and claims fully support the subject matter of the amended specification, drawings, claims, and new claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13, 14, 16, and 17 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim.

II. Drawing Objections

In this Office Action, the drawings were objected to for not showing every claimed feature and for not showing an axis as described in the specification. The drawings have been amended to include the reference numerals as well as the axis. The specification has been amended accordingly. For at these reasons, Applicant respectfully request the withdrawal of the drawing objections.

III. Specification Objections

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to for lacking antecedent support for an “in-line differential.” Applicant would like to note that on page 10, line 9 of the specification recites, among other things, “[a] gearbox and differential 49 are connected in line between. . . .” Applicant believe that this provides sufficient antecedent support for a “differential connected in line” as recited in claim 11. For at

these reasons, Applicant respectfully request the withdrawal of the specification objections.

IV. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, claims 2-17 were rejected as being indefinite. Claim 2 was rejected for reciting the same claim element twice (Office Action, p.4). While Applicant does not necessarily agree with this characterization, claim 2 has been cancelled and the contents have been incorporated into claim 1. The Office Action alleges that claim 4 is not accurate because "the seat does not tilt." (Id). As disclosed in the specification on page 11, line 9, "such tilting of seat frame 14 . . . automatically results in synchronous tilting of the wheeled frames 12 . . ." (Emphasis added). Additionally, claim 4 has been cancelled and its contents incorporated into claim 1. Claim 6 has been amended to remove the term "motorcycle-type." Claim 16 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for "the steering axis" recited in claim 16. Furthermore, "longitudinal axle" has been corrected to "longitudinal axis" as written in the as-filed claim 16. For at least the reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

V. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the following claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103: claim 1 over Japanese Patent 5-16816 (JP '816) in view of US Patent No. 4,423,796 to Winchell et al. (Winchell); claims 2-3 and 16 over JP '816 in view of Winchell and further in view of Japanese Patent 3-82689 (JP '689); and claims 4-8, 12-14, and 17 over JP

'816 in view of Winchell, further in view of JP '869, and still further in view of US Patent No. 3,572,456 to Healy. Additionally, the Office Action indicated that claims 9-11 and claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this response, claims 2, 4, 12, and 15 have been cancelled, and their contents have been incorporated into claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and the allowance of claim 1.

Claims 3, 5-11, 13, 14, 16, and 17 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least this reason. Further, the dependent claims recite more specific features than the independent claims and are additionally patentable for this reason. Applicant requests the allowance of these dependent claims.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 21, 2009

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Attachments: Seven (7) Replacement Sheets